

Report of the Athletics Advisory Board to the Faculty Senate

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As you know, our colleague Yngve Ramstad resigned as AAB chair because of health issues. So from late fall until early this semester, there was a bit of a lull in AAB activities and some matters have been delayed until next year.

As specified in 5.14.10 of the University Manual, the Athletics Advisory Board serves as an advisory policy review board to the President for all athletic programs, including intercollegiate, club, intramural, and recreational sports. The Board consists of the chair, four faculty, two alumni, one graduate student and one undergraduate student. Ex-officio members are the Director of Athletics, the Senior Woman Administrator for Athletics and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

The Board generally meets monthly, and Athletics administrators, staff and coaches are invited depending on the topic at hand. Although its mandate is broad, the Board is particularly focused on matters related to the academic integrity of the University's intercollegiate athletics program.

I am pleased to report that our varsity student-athletes continue to perform well in the classroom. For the Fall 2006 semester, their cumulative gpa was 2.84, with 24 percent of student-athletes named to the Dean's List. Nine percent were placed on probation.

Next week, the AAB will get its annual report from the Academic Advising staff; in March we met with the NCAA Compliance Coordinator. No serious concerns have emerged in either arena, but the board will be following up on recommendations it made last year regarding academic support services for incoming first-year football players in light of the high rate of them placed on probation after the fall semester.

The Board considered three requests from Club sports for permission to compete during the Final Exam period: from the men's Rowing Team for the Dad Vail Regatta and from the Equestrian and Women's Lacrosse teams, both with *potential* qualifiers for championships. The Board recommended approval of these requests, which the president subsequently granted.

In December, the Board reviewed pending NCAA legislation with the Compliance Coordinator and Athletics Department officials. In March, the chair did the same for the April round of proposals.

The issue of Athletic and Title IX fees levied on students was raised in September, with some concern expressed that there is an equity issue regarding the size of this levy (approximately \$500 per student per year) in comparison to Student Activities Fee monies disbursed to club sports (approximately \$20 per student per year). The topic was slated for discussion this spring but is on hold until fall. Also delayed is a review of pledges made by the University in response to the recent NCAA Self-Study and actions taken to date to fulfill those pledges. Finally, it is hoped that a subcommittee of the AAB looking at student-athlete-welfare issues will complete its work next year.

I'd be happy to answer questions.